

February 14, 1996 LB 1046, 1141

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Senator Witek, the only thing I can tell you is that the program...the monies that are being used for evaluation at Geneva at this particular point are already in their base. So those dollars would be in the base. If we would eliminate the program evaluation, then those dollars could be taken from the base and transferred to community based programs and/or just plain put into the General Fund. But since it's already in the base, then, you know, you don't have to have a, an A bill because the money is already there.

SENATOR WITEK: So the Office of Juvenile Services will be putting money back into the General Fund as this transition occur?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: I'm sorry, I was reading a note. Senator Witek, if you want to delay the bill so it doesn't advance in the few minutes it has left, you know, that's fine. Just tell me and I'll go ahead and pull it off the agenda, if that's what your intent because there's only a few minutes left.

SENATOR WITEK: Actually what my intention was to have you admit that all of these programs that we have paid for are, have just only now begun. And in LB 1141 I see no reason to not have had this into 1141. You really haven't explained too clearly why you would have that in a separate bill. And that's my intention is to get some answers because you have another bill on the floor asking for an additional \$3 million to the \$2 million that you got two years ago in order to carry out these programs. And now we are hearing that these programs are not being carried out, not, in fact, I have just only just now begun to be carried out and we will not only have given that \$2 million to carry out those programs, but now we have to go and keep paying for what we're doing already at the state. And I'm just saying that if you're in here asking for an additional \$3 million for pilot programs that aren't even begun yet in some cases, or have only now just begun, to me it's a very curious thing that is going on in the Office of Juvenile Services in your legislation concerning these areas, and bringing this bill in separately is just another, in my opinion, way to make it look like, or to make it seem like we're making just some small change here when, in fact, we are making quite a significant policy change. And it's the exact opposite change than we just made with 988, your bill, a year ago, or two years ago. So that's the point I'm